

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12-16, and 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 are amended and claims 5, 11, and 17 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 7, 13-16, and 18 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 4-6, 10-12, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,840,218 to Scholl. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 4 and 10 are amended for clarity and recite, *inter alia*, that a heat generation rate is calculated at "predetermined first and second timings" based upon a control parameter, and timing is corrected "based upon a deviation between the heat generation rate at the second timing and the heat generation rate at the first timing." These features are supported, for example, by Applicants' page 27, line 5 to page 29, line 17. Scholl fails to teach or suggest such features.

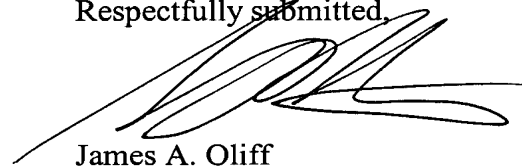
Moreover, dependent claims 6 and 12 are amended to specify that timing is advanced "when the deviation is equal to or smaller than a predetermined threshold value." This feature is supported, for example, by Applicants' page 29, line 18 to page 30, line 2. Scholl also fails to teach or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, independent claims 4 and 10 and claims 6 and 12 dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Scholl. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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